

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

The following amendments and remarks place the application in better condition for allowance or appeal. Accordingly Applicants request entry of this paper into the application, pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.116(b).

Claims 1, 4-15 and 17-33 are pending prior to entry of the amendment. Claims 1, 6, 9 and 13 are amended and claims 5 and 7 canceled without prejudice or disclaimer upon entry of this amendment. The amended claims are amended to for improved grammatical clarity and do not restrict the scope of the claims. Thus, claims 1, 4, 6, 8-15, and 17-33 are pending after entry of this amendment.

The amended claims find support, for example, at page 7, lines 9-11 and page 10, lines 15-19.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1, 6 and 19 have been amended to introduce the grammatical corrections requested by the Examiner.

Claim 5 has been canceled, thus rendering the rejection of this claim moot.

Claim 9 has been amended to independent form as requested, thereby addressing the rejection with respect to claims 9 and 10.

Claims 4 and 6 as amended both include the phrase "the amino acid sequence of residues . . . is." The Office Action states that the word "is" in this phrase should be changed to "are" to be grammatically correct. Applicants respectfully disagree. The subject in this phrase is "the amino acid sequence," which is singular, not "residues." Use of the verb "is" is appropriate for a singular subject. The word "are" would be appropriate if the subject were "residues," but it is not.

III. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants note that they have not yet received a marked-off copy of the information disclosure statement mailed on September 30, 2003. If the Examiner has not already

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PATENT

Amdt. dated September 21, 2004

Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure Examining Group

done so, Applicants thus request that the Examiner consider the documents listed in this IDS, and provide Applicants a marked-off copy of the IDS with the next communication from the Office to confirm the Examiner's consideration of these documents.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments

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